Selling of China-made globes Depicting J&K as an Independent Territory

1336. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that China-made globes depicting Jammu and Kashmir as an independent territory are being sold freely in India;

(b) whether Government have initiated any punitive action on customs officials in Chennai for allowing the consignment from china to enter India; and

(c) whether India is likely to take up the matter on diplomatic level at Beijing and Hong Kong where these faulty globes are being produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) Following a direction from the Delhi High court, the CBI investigated the case. The CBI investigations have revealed that Chennai based companies imported globes from China in which J & K has been shown in a different colour than that of the rest of India indicating thereby that Kashmir is beyond the boundaries of India.

(b) During the course of the hearing in the Delhi High Court, the CBI intimated that a reference will be made to the Department of Revenue for taking suitable action in the matter.

(c) India's position on Jammu & Kashmir constituting an inalienable and integral part of India has consistently been put across to the Chinese side. The Government remains vigilant and takes all necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India.

Monitoring of child sex ratio

1337. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Registrar General of India has asked its State officers to monitor the child sex ratio on monthly basis to check the alarming fall in the number of girls as indicated in the Census, 2001; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the birth registration, though compulsory

under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, is tardy in some of the States;

(c) what measures Government are taking in connection therewith; and

(d) what steps Government are taking or propose to take to overcome the imbalance of girl-boy child ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT) : (a) No, Sir. The Chief Registrars of Birth and Death in the States/Uts have been asked to monitor the sex ratio at births based on birth registration under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 as it is their responsibility to implement the provisions of the Act.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir; The Government have set the goal of achieving universal registration of births and deaths by the year, 2010 under the National Population Policy, 2000. In order to achieve this, Central Government have initiated various steps which inter-alia include regular monitoring of the levels of registration, providing assistance to the states for training and computerization and public measures to create public awareness.

(d) The imbalance in child sex ratio is chiefly due to preference for a son resulting in female foeticide and continued neglect of girl child leading to higher mortality among them. In order to contain the practice of female foeticide, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Preventions of Misuse) Act, 1994 was put into effect from 1.1.1996. The Act has been amended since then and made more stringent. The responsibility of the implementation of the Act is with the States/UTs administration.

To bring about a change in the attitude towards girl child and to overcome general social prejudice against them, the Government of India has been advertising through the radio, television and print media to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide. Workshop and seminars are being organized through voluntary organizations at the State and sub-state levels for the same purpose. Help and cooperation has been sought from religious leaders as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. In addition the Government has been implementing the scheme of "Balika Samriddhi Yojna" since 1997 with multi-purpose objectives of changing the negative family and community attitude towards the girl child, for improving their enrolment in schools and for raising their age at marriage. In the Ninth Plan 23,13,112 girl children had benefited from the scheme.